

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 3, insert the following as separate paragraphs:

--BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field--.

Page 1, at line 2, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--2. Description of Related Art--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11, as follows:

It is known to apply automation to processes. For instance, the Enterprise Integration Laboratory of the University of Toronto has published material such as the report "Integrated Supply Chain Management Project" by Mark S Fox, Mihai Barbuceanu, Mahmud Gani and Chris Beck which can be seen at [http://website
www.eil.utoronto.ca/iscm-descr.html](http://www.eil.utoronto.ca/iscm-descr.html). This focuses on the management of business processes as they are executed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21, as follows:

References below to "ASOPE" are references to embodiments of the present invention. "ASOPE" is an acronym for "Aspect ~~Oriented~~ Oriented Process Engineering" and is the name used for the principle underlying embodiments of the present invention.

Page 1, before line 28, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 2, before line 17, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25, as follows:

ASOPE decomposes processes into two elements, Generic Process Patterns (GPPs) which are the fundamental sequences of steps which are used to achieve a goal, and Process Aspects which contain context specific process steps together with instructions for their composition with a particular GPP. In this way it is possible to use ASOPE to synthesise wholly new processes that achieve a goal but, with respect to one another, utilise extra or alternative process steps for example to achieve unrelated sub-goals or prevent the system from reaching a particular state.

An example of a GPP would be a plan to ~~instal~~install customer premises equipment. Process Aspect examples would be access checks for premises related to an individual, or checking that the site could support physical diversity for a corporate working in the finance industry. GPPs are decontextualised, generalised plans and Process Aspects provide context, resource and participant dependent exceptions and extensions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, as follows:

For example if one were building a program that ran a company pay-rol
payroll using object orientated techniques you would write a class for the
company's employees, a class for tax information and some business logic classes
representing the way that the system is to make payments. Each employee would
be represented within the system by an *object instance* which would be a
realisation of the appropriate class, so the tax office would be represented by just
one instance of the tax class.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 1, as follows:

~~CLAIMS~~ What is claimed is: